UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/45/191
11 March 1991

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 79

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/45/849/Add.1)]

45/191. Developing human resources for development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that the human being is at the centre of all development activities,

Considering that human resources are an essential means of achieving economic and social development goals,

Recalling its resolution 44/213 of 22 December 1989 on developing human resources for development, and other earlier resolutions on the same subject, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/120 of 28 July 1989 on the development of human resources,

Referring to its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, the annex to which contains the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 1/ in particular the relevant sections thereof on human resources development,

Reaffirming the contribution to the elaboration of the concept of human resources development made by the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the Region of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the

---

1/ Resolution 45/199, annex.

Pacific, 2/ the Khartoum Declaration: Towards a Human-focused Approach to Socio-economic Recovery and Development in Africa, 3/ the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation 4/ and the communiqué of the tenth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, held at Grand Anse, Grenada, from 3 to 7 July 1989, 5/

Welcoming the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s, adopted by the World Summit for Children, held in New York on 29 and 30 September 1990, 6/ as well as the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation, adopted at the twenty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Africa and sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic Planning and Development, 7/ the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris from 3 to 14 September 1990, 8/ and the World Declaration on Education for All and the Framework for Action to Meet Basic Learning Needs, adopted by the World Conference on Education for All, 9/

Taking note of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on human resources development through technical co-operation, 10/

Recognizing that the concept of human resources development, while specifically referring only to the human resource component of development programming, is intimately linked in a broad sense with many other elements and

---

2/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1988, Supplement No. 11 (E/1988/35), chap. IV, resolution 274 (XLIV), annex.

3/ A/43/430, annex I.

4/ A/44/315, annex.

5/ A/44/477, annex.

6/ A/45/625, annex.

7/ A/45/427, appendix II.

8/ A/CONF.147/Misc.9.

9/ Final Report of the World Conference on Education for All: Meeting Basic Learning Needs, Jomtien, Thailand, 5-9 March 1990, Inter-Agency Commission (UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank) for the World Conference on Education for All, New York, 1990, appendices 1 and 2.

10/ A/45/113.

requires integrated and concerted strategies, policies, plans and programmes to ensure the development of the full potential of human beings,

Recognizing also that human resources development should contribute to total human development, which enlarges the choices available to people in developing their lives and in fulfilling their aspirations,

Reaffirming that strategies and policies for human resources development of each country should be in accordance with its national priorities, values, traditions, culture and stage of development,

Emphasizing that education, in particular basic education, which facilitates the acquisition and upgrading of skills, and continued demand-oriented technical training are inextricably linked to economic growth and sustained development of developing countries,

Recognizing the importance of improved educational opportunities for women and their greater integration into the development process,

Recognizing also that education and training programmes, including distance education programmes, utilizing appropriate and sustainable technologies can broaden and improve the range of resources available to developing countries, thus helping them meet their requirements with regard to human resources development,

Stressing the importance of international co-operation in supporting national efforts for human resources development in developing countries, and stressing also that both North-South and South-South co-operation, including economic and technical co-operation among developing countries, can play a valuable role in this field,

Emphasizing the need for the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue to give priority to human resources development in developing countries,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General; 11/

2. Takes note with appreciation of the human-centred approach to the development process set out in the Human Development Report 1990, sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme, invites Governments to give due consideration to the ideas and recommendations contained therein, and invites the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to do likewise, bearing in mind the work envisaged in the report;

3. Recognizes that the achievement of a higher standard of living and the well-being of individuals and peoples in general, through self-reliance and sustained development, constitutes one of the basic goals of human resources development in developing countries;

11/ A/45/451.

4. Emphasizes that human resources development in a context of political freedom, popular participation, respect for human rights, justice and equity is essential to economic growth and development;

5. Emphasizes also that basic education and continued objective-directed training are the most essential elements in human resources development;

6. Recognizes the importance of appropriate and sustainable technologies in the training and educational processes in developing countries and, in this context, stresses the role of intensified international co-operation through, inter alia, the transfer of relevant technology;

7. Stresses the need for increased emphasis on co-operation in education programmes, including distance education programmes, in order to accelerate human resources development in developing countries;

8. Emphasizes the vital importance of national capacity-building in developing countries, and encourages the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Development Programme, to intensify activities in support of national efforts in this regard;

9. Emphasizes also the critical importance of qualified national personnel in national capacity-building, and calls upon the international community to pay greater attention to the serious problem of the brain drain from developing countries;

10. Emphasizes further the need to integrate human resources development into comprehensive strategies for human development, including supportive measures in vital and related areas such as population, health, nutrition, water, sanitation, housing, communications and employment, and to assess the progress in those areas through appropriate qualitative and quantitative indicators;

11. Stresses that the search for solutions to the problems of the most vulnerable population groups in developing countries should constitute an integral part of human resources development strategies;

12. Recognizes that improving the economic and social status of women is essential to the attainment of human resources development objectives, and stresses that their role should be fully taken into account in human resources development strategies so that they can better contribute to and benefit from development processes;

13. Recognizes also the importance of the development of children and young people and their integration into human resources development programmes in developing countries;

14. Stresses the vital importance of co-operation between the public and private sectors in human resources development, particularly through the effective implementation of policies, plans and programmes for economic development and the optimal use of resources to that end;

15. Stresses also the importance of international support for national efforts and regional programmes for human resources development in developing countries and the need to increase the flow of resources to developing countries for those activities;

16. Calls upon the international community, including the multilateral financial and development institutions, to support the efforts of developing countries in human resources development, in accordance with their national priorities and plans, through, inter alia, operational activities of the United Nations system;

17. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including ways and means of strengthening his co-ordination of the activities of the United Nations system related to human resources development, as well as proposals for action by members of the international community further to promote and intensify co-operation in this field;

18. Decides to include in the agenda of its forty-sixth session an item entitled "Human resources development".

71st plenary meeting
21 December 1990